

# ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE ASSOCIATION OF THE

Manufacturers of Berkshire County,

AT THEIR FIRST MEETING IN PITTSFIELD, FEB. 22, 1855,

BY HON. E. H. KELLOGG,

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF WOOLEN  
MANUFACTURES INTO THE COUNTY, BY  
THADDEUS CLAPP, 3d,

AND A REPORT OF OTHER PROCEEDINGS OF THE DAY.

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PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE ASSOCIATION.

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## PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

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At a Dinner Party, given by Robert Pomeroy, Esq., of Pittsfield, on the First of January, 1855, several of the Manufacturers of Berkshire being present, the idea was suggested that an Association of the manufacturers of the county ought to be formed. The proposition struck those present in a favorable light, and a temporary organization was at once effected, by the choice of the following officers:—

*President*—GEORGE W. PLATNER, of Lee.

*Vice Presidents*—THEODORE POMEROY and DAVID CAMPBELL, of Pittsfield; C. H. PLUNKETT, of Hinsdale; J. Z. GOODRICH, of Stockbridge; T. G. CARSON, of Dalton; ELISHA JENKS, of Adams, and A. C. RUSSELL, of Great Barrington.

*Secretary*—W. F. BACON, of Pittsfield.

To inaugurate the Society, it was determined to hold the first regular meeting at Pittsfield, on the 22d of February, 1855, to effect a permanent organization and to celebrate the occasion by an address, which Hon. ENSIGN H. KELLOGG was requested to prepare, and by a dinner at the Berkshire Hotel.

Messrs. Thomas F. Plunkett, George S. Willis, and Charles L. Russell, of Pittsfield, William Pollock and Shubael Brayton, of Adams, and Elizur Smith, of Lee, were appointed a committee to make the necessary arrangements.

On the 22d, the proposed programme was happily carried out, and it was unanimously voted to publish the Address and a report of the other proceedings of the day. Messrs. Thomas Colt, Robert Pomeroy, and T. G. Carson, were appointed a committee to superintend the publication. The present pamphlet is printed in accordance with that vote.





## ADDRESS.

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MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN ;

MANUFACTURERS OF BERKSHIRE :

I pray you not to allow yourselves to treat the indifferent service that I shall render on this occasion, as ominous of the enterprise that you have now in hand. For I think I discover in the numbers here assembled, an ample assurance, that the objects of the Association are appreciated and approved, however uninteresting its inaugural proceedings may be ; and that its organization will be matured, and its purposes prosecuted with a spirit that shall render it one of the cherished Institutions of this thrice blessed Berkshire Valley of ours.

Instead of reluctance, I should rise with real pleasure, to the part you have kindly assigned me for this morning, if I could render the service so obviously appropriate to the occasion, viz. : to read a historical sketch of the introduction and growth of the various kinds of manufactures in the County. ("Sketches" are always welcome to manufacturers, and never more so than in this winter of their discontent.) But a history anything less than authentic and complete, it would be neither satisfactory for you to

hear, or me to prepare ; and for such a sketch the materials at my command are wholly inadequate. These materials must be furnished from the contributions of the Association, after careful investigation by individual members, each in his own branch of manufacture, and in his own locality ; and it will be the agreeable duty of some one hereafter to arrange these contributions in the form of Memoirs, to be presented to the Association and the public.

Gentlemen : The eager curiosity that all enlightened men discover to understand the condition of the business world, its treasures, its earnings, its stated products, particularly the adequacy of the supply of food ; has its origin in that divine ordinance by which labor was allotted to man as the condition of his subsistence ; and in the relation, established by the same hand, of dependence between man and man. No labor, is death to the human family. The beast of the field subsists not by labor, nor does he take heed for the morrow's meal for himself or his kind. And if there existed an order of intelligences like ourselves, except these bonds of labor, self-sustaining and sustained, burthened only with the enjoyment of the luxury of life in its highest forms, we should not expect to see them perplexed with fear for the failure of the corn or cotton crop. But the councils of Divine wisdom have so ordered, that human beings, communities, countries, continents, are dependent, one upon another, so that a war, a draught, or any event that may touch the great question of supply, occurring in any one considerable province, excites a sympathetic interest through all the tribes of civilized men. And as labor, in these more modern times, has reached the consummate wisdom of distributing its tasks, into its present and ever-increasing multitude of profes-



sions, trades, and callings, this sympathy has followed on so closely, and bound together by such strong ties, those engaged in the same pursuit, that they become sometimes too isolated in their feelings, too indifferent to, and ignorant of, all kinds of business, not falling within the purview of their own avocation. Many prosperous farmers have lived, I presume for years, within a short ride of a factory, without once having entered it to contemplate the marvelous working of the loom and spindle; while the enthusiastic machinist has lived as long, in raptures with the reason with which his machine seems almost endowed, without once having noticed the rotation of crops that the farmer is conducting in the fields all around him. The active and alert son of the mercantile metropolis, ruralizing with his brother, the village physician, and the cherished guardian of the health of all that quiet region, soundly berates him for obeying so many midnight calls, and pokes fun at his pills and powders. The daring and devoted child of the sea, revisiting the paternal homestead, is amused and puzzled to see the face of the young farmer in a glow of delight over the field of ribbons that he has just rolled off from his plough. And both their infancies were rocked in the same cradle.

But if sympathy between different pursuits has become too much weakened from the modern division of labor, it has certainly become, from the same cause, more intense among the followers of the same calling, and as all acknowledge in this enlightened day, the law of dependence between the various branches of labor, the disposition that is now-a-days manifest amongst members of the various trades and callings to associate together for social intercourse and mutual improvement, is not to be criticised but

commended. Whether wise or unwise, these formal and periodical interviews, are now enjoyed by all the more prominent departments of labor, whether it be chiefly intellectual, like that of the learned professions, or manual, like that of the handicraftsman, or a combination of both, like that of the husbandman of the present day. This is more true of the cities than of the country ; but within our own borders, the clergy enjoy an association, and doubtless with great advantage and edification in their laborious and responsible calling. The legal profession have always had their association hard by the arena of their stern and exhausting labors, where they can readily retreat, not to the rollicking symposium of the olden time, but to a social banquet, where the spunky combats of the forum that have just set the outsiders agape, are swept off to oblivion on a tide of pleasantry, merriment and anecdote, such as experience in no other calling can furnish. Physicians have, and enjoy, a County Medical Society. Teachers have their associations for discussion and mutual improvement. And when Autumn, having garnered up all her fruits, trips forth in her gala dress, upon our hills to hold holiday, with what joy do the sons of husbandry throng to the festival ! A spontaneous hymn of praise raised to the God of the seasons by those who first touch her golden fruits ; and yet an occasion to them of the highest practical utility. The exhilarating and healthful excitement of competition, the elevating influence of social intercourse, the inspection of the manifold gifts of industry, the knowledge of the best breeds of stock and the best modes of rearing them, the information in regard to all the questions, of crops and tillage, that have been afforded by the Agricultural Societies of the county, have been of incalculable value to its people.



But I need not adduce examples to justify the Manufacturers of Berkshire, in instituting an association for social intercourse and mutual improvement. A department that engages the labor of such a considerable portion of the people of the county, whose annual products are so large a part of the whole, and that serves, in so great a measure, to invigorate and sustain all other interests, should have the countenance of not only its own members, but of all others, in the adoption of any measures supposed to be beneficial to it. Such an association not only extends personal acquaintance, and furnishes opportunity for the enjoyment, under favorable circumstances, of the best charm of civilized life, social intercourse, but tends also to the accumulation of much positive knowledge in regard to the conduct and improvement of the various branches of manufacturing. People engaged in this pursuit are as enlightened as any other class, and it is not surprising, in this day when education and science send some of their most accomplished votaries to business pursuits, that we should find, as we do find, men in this class who are furnished with the highest wisdom, not only for their own specific calling, but for all human affairs. They are not accustomed to formal speech before large assemblies, or to publish through the press, but in personal intercourse their tongues are loosened, and knowledge abounds more than in the set speech or printed page. Here the capacious understanding, expanded by study and strengthened by observation, may point out possible improvements, and the expedients to be selected to accomplish them. Here experience, that has reeled beneath the fluctuations of the business, and again recovered itself, that has felt the arrows and slings of its hardships, and yet survived their

pangs, may throw the guidance of its chastened counsel over the pathway of youthful enthusiasm. There is field enough for these beneficent offices of age and experience; for no headlong zeal or unenlightened energy can, of themselves, marshall and conduct the affairs of a large establishment in the way of prosperity. Nor let it be thought unworthy of remark that extensive social intercourse will find its further reward in the improvement of personal deportment. Isolation is unfriendly to the development of the virtues, of just self-estimation and true modesty. The boy that is educated in the most extensive circle of companionship, has the best chance to form a just estimate of his own powers, to acquire the most valuable amount of learning, by first acquiring a taste for it, for its own sake; and when he comes to take hold of one of the great offices of life, instead of indulging in uncouth and inflated pedantry, to manifest the affluence of his mind in the appositeness and efficacy of the services he renders. So in the business world; the man who cultivates the most extensive intercourse with those of his own rank and pursuit, has the best chance of seeing himself as others see him, and escaping that unseemly deformity of character; the constant habit of purse-proud airs, and of noisy, baseless pretension.

If there were no positive benefits, however, to be derived from an association of manufacturers, it would be a rational pastime for them to assemble together occasionally to contemplate, as they well may with satisfaction, the important relation their business sustains to other departments of labor, its powerful agency in augmenting the revenues of society, and the commanding rank it holds in modern times. Not long since it was seriously claimed that no one produced anything of value to society but the



tiller of the soil, because the artificer as it was said, consumed in food while engaged on a job, all the value that his workmanship added to the raw material. But it is now-a-days pretty clear that the genius of the hand can as easily produce an article worth more than the raw material and the food consumed in working it, as the genius of the head can produce a book worth more than the stationery and the food consumed while writing it. It was once also gravely debated, whether any kind of mechanical labor could stand its hand with husbandry in actual productiveness and profit, because Nature was the great ally of the farmer, and gave him the aid of all her forces for nothing. Mechanical Philosophy has, however, clothed the artisan with the power of wielding the laws of nature with an energy so stupendous, that the idea of their being the exclusive friends of agriculture, has been long since upset. Within the memory of some here, the impression was very general, that each man had better be his own mechanic, and buy as little as possible. On this point also opinions and practices have undergone a great revolution. Every one now appreciates how much skill he gains by giving his constant and undivided attention to a single object, how much time and experience is lost in changing from one pursuit to another, and how awkwardly the habits of mind formed in one calling, take hold of a different one. But more important still; this division of labor puts the inventive faculties of every man at work, to devise machinery for his own branch of labor, and it is the successful working of such inventions that makes the sum total of the productiveness of labor, in modern times, such a prodigious marvel. The almost overshadowing importance in the mass of industry that manufactures have acquired, is attrib-



utable to the ample scope they afford for the application of machinery to the arts. The amount of labor in this department, that this mighty Hercules takes off the hands of fainting man and performs without relaxation of nerve, figures cannot sufficiently condense for this occasion. He does all its carding, spinning, weaving, dressing and pressing; extending at the same time a helping hand to commerce; rowing her vessels on sea, lake, and river; flying the country all over, with her enormous lines of land carriages in his train; to the miner, pumping, and excavating for him; to the worker in metals, cutting, hammering, filing, and polishing, for him; to the worker in wood, sawing, planing, and boring, for him; and it is his pastime all the while, to serve the world of Literature, by scattering its printed leaves through all its borders, as thick as those of Vallambrosa.

Manufactures are of great public value in expanding the field of human enterprise. This field will become contracted as the occupations of life become few and simple, and expanded as they become numerous. The best spirit of enterprise, like the best state of society, will be found where the cultivators of the soil, the merchants, and the manufacturers, are duly combined together.

One of the best eulogiums upon manufactures is found in the fact that they are necessary to establish the independence of a nation. No people can meet, with fortitude, the various crises that await nations, without having, within themselves, the means of subsistence, clothing, implements of labor, and all the panoply of defence. The lesson that the Revolution taught this country upon this subject, will not soon be forgotten.

It is obvious to the reflecting mind at the present day,

that it is for the interest of a nation to diversify as much as possible, industrial pursuits, in order that each branch may become most profitable, the entire stock of labor become great, and the wealth of the whole community may abound. This is as true of a small district or town as of a nation. The important condition of the prosperity of agriculture, the leading interest here and everywhere, is a market for its products. The nearer the market, the more the interest prospers. This near market manufactures supply, without closing those more distant; and this simple and naked truth is the glory of the business, and at the same time, its defence as a constituent part of national policy. If you would nurture agriculture, consume its fruits upon the very premises as it were. Where it is compelled to look abroad for its chief sustenance, it is troubled with doubt, and its arm is unnerved. It may find the distant mart vacant and thirsty from droughts, and it may find it flooded from propitious seasons. To know, it must, at any rate, go and see. Hostile legislation by alien governments, may drive it back heartless and hopeless upon the sea. Yes, gentlemen, it is the every day market of a large, concentrated and active population, not tillers of the soil but consumers of its fruits, that clothes these rugged New England hills with their insignia of prosperity. It is manufactures; and I thank God that, by virtue of the bravery of the Puritan character, they have been enabled to take root, strengthen and abide with us even to this day, notwithstanding the perils that they have been in often, from false brethren, from their own countrymen, and the stripes they have received from the Jews. Why! they clothe these rough and rolling acres with gracious and inviting smiles till young husbandry is disenchanted of its prairie visions,



and becomes content to trust its life and health to the kindly shelter of its native county.

Manufactures are of great value to society, in the particular, that they diversify the field of employment so that every variety of talent and disposition is furnished with a congenial pursuit. The best endowed minds will fall below mediocrity, and perhaps into utter inefficiency, if tied to an ill-assorted calling. In a society of few, and perhaps one leading occupation, the choice of pursuit is fixed and arbitrary, transmitted, like the family name, from generation to generation; and the chances are that under such circumstances, two out of every family of five boys, will turn out listless, dreaming, do-nothings. That boy, who when his father wants him to pick up potatoes, is chasing the cat over the roof of the house, or swinging in the top of some forest tree, or on some other adventure's dizzy height, had better be on the Pacific wrestling with the monsters that roam her tranquil depths. The youngster, that his father thinks he finds sleeping on his back under the fence, but whose eyes are scanning the fretted vault above, or rolling about with the golden drapery of sunset; is some mute, inglorious, Milton; and his young heart constantly swells with one lay at least, "Lay down the shovel and the hoe—o—o—." Another surprises the family day by day, with some new achievement of the pen-knife, useful, probably ornamental, certainly curious; but in the use of agricultural implements, he is pronounced an incorrigible dunce. Go with him to a city of spindles; see with what magical charm he arises into a superior intelligence. He ascends, with the speed of intuition, to the elements of Mechanical Philosophy, and looks upon the marvelous power with which Mechanism applies the laws



of nature to the arts of life. Leave him there, for he has found his home. Another boy swaps penknives forty times a day, and would barter off all his father's chickens if he dared, and cannot be made to hoe corn enough to feed them a week. Let him take his way to the marts of Commerce. Another develops a genuine taste and talent for husbandry in all its branches, and it is to his hands that it should be entrusted, and under his guidance that it will prosper. Thus the field of industry, when fully diversified, by searching out every shade of individuality and talent and giving it the proper element to work in, employs the collective engines of society to the highest advantage to the individual and the public.

A nation is not expected to reach the higher forms of civilization without a system of refined mechanical and manufacturing industry. Feudal laws can sweep all the fruitage of the earth into baronial castles, till their privileged tenants emerge fairly into its light, commerce can call its Venices out of the sea, fairy residences, where painting, poetry, and sculpture may while away their enchanting lives ; and these may be but sunny summits, making the chill and heavy night that broods on all below, more visible.

The standard of national civilization is the spirit not of a class, but of the whole people ; and it will not reach a high elevation, unless the mass of laboring men have the leading prize of life before them, the improvement of their own and their children's condition. Manufacturing and mechanical industry enhances the wages of all kinds of labor and surrounds its homes with the comforts and enjoyments of life. It gives Agriculture new fields for its products, without closing any old ones, it invigorates

commerce in its most important branch, the domestic; and in its extension abroad; and it gives a nation, by its abundant supply of resources for all emergencies, the spirit, without which it cannot be an erect and vigorous state; the spirit of a free people.

The history of the introduction and growth of Manufactures in America is memorable. It cannot be written except in a large book, but its leading features are engraven as with a diamond on the nation's memory. For a century before the revolution, intelligent men in the colonies, felt that it was as much for their interest to nurture a system of mechanical industry, as it was for their brethren in the mother Country. They esteemed themselves endowed, with the same mechanical genius that distinguished their older brethren, and felt the same inspiration to exercise it; vast tracts of vacant land were spread out before them inviting the hand of culture, but they knew that to make that culture most profitable, there should be, hard by, consumers engaged in other pursuits. They considered that, while the advantage in the worth of money to be invested, and the wages of labor, might be in favor of the old Country with which they would have to compete; that advantage might be counter-balanced by cheaper building materials, mill-sites &c., greater exemption from taxes, and by quicker access to market. They wanted that faculty of a superintending government that can by various forms of encouragement, win away a portion of labor from land, to which it always inclines in the first instance, and engage it in mechanical pursuits. They found themselves, however, not only without this faculty, but that it was placed in the hands of an alien government and wielded for the destruction of the very interest that they were anxious to



cherish. Such was the economical tutelage that England observed towards the colonies during their childhood and youth. With a genius, an ability, and an ambition to produce in abundance every fabric known to art, from metal, plant, or fleece — with a spirit to push commerce wherever the winds prevail and the waters roll — they were enjoined not to carry a yard of flannel from one colony to another, much less to transport it to the neighboring West India Islands, or any other part of the world. The simple but truthful history of the life of the American Colonies, in regard to manufacturers, is, that England kept them as a vent for her own fabrics, and drained them of what little specie they could collect to pay for them. It did not assuage the grief that the colonies felt at their helpless condition, to observe meanwhile that England, by the sheer rigor of her economical, industrial, and commercial codes, was forcing right out of the earth the most gigantic system of mechanical industry that ever was seen; a system that has made her little cloud-capped isle the throne of the seas, on which she wields the sceptre of the commercial world; a system that enables her to march, clad in bright armor, to the banks of the Rhine, the Tagus and the Danube, and there poise, in her own hand, the balance of European power; a system that enabled her to change the Gallic passion for universal dominion into an airy dream, that ever hovers around, but never breaks the slumber of Waterloo.

As we revert to the era of 1789, when the States had just established a general superintending government, and the great statesmen of the Revolution had assembled in Congress and applied themselves to the exercise of the power for the encouragement of manufactures, we are interested and almost amused to see what articles of manu-



facture they were enabled to pick out as worthy of encouragement, and with what timid step they pursued their winding and uncertain game. Instead of the ponderous Iron, Woolen, and Cotton interests that sway the tariff debates of the present day, Tallow Candles and Soap, Horn Combs, and New-England Rum, were leading articles in their deliberations. Gorham, Ames, Lyman, Sedgwick, Gerry, of Mass. were there; Sherman and Griswold, of Ct.; Lawrence and Goodhue, of New-York; Boudinot of N. J., Fitzsimmons, Hartley, Clymer, and Scott of Pa., Carroll of Md., Madison, Bland, Lee, White, and Page of Va., Smith of S. C., Burke and Jackson of Ga., were there, engaged in the great work of re-establishing the credit and business of the country, with an intelligence and patriotism that might well be imitated in modern times. It was a Congress thus composed that Fisher Ames charmed and awed, day after day, with his inimitable eloquence, to the end that they would not go above three cts. per gallon on Molasses, for fear of injuring the manufacture of New-England Rum. The Cotton crop, that is now the sole support of great States, and is the greatest burthen that Commerce casts upon the bosom of the sea, was then only in contemplation, but it was hoped, as Mr. Burke told Congress in debate, that if good seed could be procured, it might prosper. Not a Woolen or Cotton mill broke the waters of any river that run down the Atlantic slope. Not a yard of American milled goods met the eye. The downy Spanish Merino fleeces were roaming the royal sheep-walks of Estramadura. Coarse wool only was raised in this country, nor was it supposed that the climate would admit of improvement. It was not till twelve years after that Chancellor Livingston, then Minister to France, sent home three sheep



from the royal Merino flock of Rambouillet, that the process of refining the American fleeces of wool commenced; a process that has worked such wonders in the sheep husbandry of this country. The first nineteen or twenty years after the organization of the General Government, saw about fifteen mills and eighty thousand spindles in operation. The restrictions that Congress then imposed on commerce, forced capital so violently from that channel to manufacturing, that in two years it was increased four-fold. Their amount in 1810, as estimated by Mr. Gallatin, was One Hundred and Twenty Million Dollars, (\$120,000,000,) in 1816, Two Hundred Million, (\$200,000,000,); and the census of 1850 gave the annual product of that year, of Manufacturing, Mining, and the Mechanic Arts, at over One Thousand Millions, (\$1000,000,000,). Of this amount Massachusetts is credited with over One Hundred and Fifty-one Millions (\$151,000,000,); exceeded only by two States, New-York and Pennsylvania, and over them she is credited with a pre-eminence in the amount of personal property she holds. The census states the product of the Manufacturers of Berkshire County, for that year, at over Four and one-fourth Millions. This probably approximates the truth, though it is certain that the census of 1850, in some particulars, is a very wild and deceptive array of figures.

But the county needs no census-takers to cipher out its indebtedness to the Mechanic Arts. The waters of the Housatonic, the Hoosuc, and their tributaries, sing their praises; our great Iron works, all up and down the valley, our new and interesting Glass factories, our Marble beds, from which spring up the ornamented columns of Girard Colleges, of the National Capitol, and of other architectural



monuments of American civilization and power, bear perpetual testimony to their great benefits.

Berkshire, though a frontier county, is no unfledged member of the Massachusetts sisterhood. She was established as a county the same year with the old central county of Worcester, and though not settled as early, manufactures were introduced here nearly as soon as there. Paper, one of the oldest of the manufactures of this country, and one of the most important of this county, was made in a mill in Dalton, by Mr. Zenas Crane and others, at the beginning of the present century. The other branches were established at an early day, and have rapidly increased; and though the rough-and-tumble fortune that has ever betided the system in this country has been severe with them, knocking some down one day, tripping up others the next, they have courageously held on their way, and enjoyed an average amount of prosperity.

I shall not presume to offer for the consideration of practical manufacturers any suggestions touching the extension and improvement of the business among us. Any citizen however, beholding its propitious influences in its present condition, may well be led to wish for an extension of mechanical industry to the other various branches that he sees in operation in other parts of the State. No where is the raw material for much of this extension in greater variety, or abundance; no where is building material nearer at hand; no where is water power more plentiful; no where can credit be more safely bestowed, if resident capital be not sufficient; no where is the genius of the people more exactly suited to the thing; no where is Agriculture more ready to redouble her efforts to meet the expanded demand; no where is living more cheap; and



no where can mechanical labor expect to be crowned with more happiness than within these green walls that surround us. Soon, then, may the time come when the workers in iron and steel shall have their variety of shops in our midst, making cutlery in all its forms, mechanics tools, implements of husbandry, the axe, scythe, hoe, plough and shovel, Mathematical, Medical, and Astronomical instruments; when the workers of skins may produce leather in great abundance, boots and shoes enough at least for home consumption, and, better still, for exportation to other markets; when the workers of wood may increase their cabinet and other wares till they mingle in, and swell the streams of domestic commerce that fertilize the broad expanse of the Union.

Persons interested in the mammoth establishments of Lowell, Lawrence, &c. are sometimes curious to know how you can, with yours upon a comparatively small scale, where the current expenses would seem to be necessarily larger in proportion to the amount of the product, be able to make business profitable, or compete with them in the market. But you know that the secret abides in the circumstances of your locality. You have the advantage of less first cost in the original outlay. The structures to which I have alluded have been reared by the earnings of the commerce and trade of large cities, and their operation has been necessarily entrusted mainly to hired agencies. If the surplus wealth of commerce that strews its splendors over all the landscape that the eye can command, from the summit of Bunker Hill, has left this distant region to the simplicity of its native charms; it has also left our mill-seats to be occupied, and our resources to be developed, by men to the manor born. The operators of our estab-

lishments are, with slight exceptions, the owners, and the capital employed, being the result ordinarily of their own industry, they manage with all the care and zeal that self-interest inspires. But a far greater and more decisive advantage is found in a more constant, skillful, faithful, reliable, and therefore more profitable array of help. The cramped and crowded walks of manufacturing cities afford the employee no eligible chance of establishing a home where his eyes may be greeted with the prospect of pleasant life, of the healthful education and advancement of his children. He therefore abandons the idea of establishing there a permanent place of abode. The laboring man and the large family of children that work with him, the industrious widow and her daughters, eat and sleep in large boarding houses, bound there by the solitary tie of interest in their wages; and when any untoward event overtakes them, or summer's heat makes their position irksome, they give the prescribed notice, turn their backs upon their employers, and flee to their native hills or other more congenial regions. Thus manufacturing labor in these places is necessarily transient, uncertain, not to say unskillful, and in certain seasons of the year so wholly unreliable, that those concerns are materially crippled in their capacity of production.

But there is not, and need not be, in this region, any such restraint upon this class of citizens. There is scarcely a wheel that flutters our waters, a forge-fire that glows within our borders, a machine shop, or marble quarry, around which there is not scope enough for every artisan to have a delightful home, either used or purchased, at moderate rates; with ample room to sustain the ordinary domestic animals; room enough for the sports of childhood,



the ornamental tree and flowering shrub ; room where horticulture may bring forth her teeming array of dew-dripping esculents ; room where floriculture, not unfrequently the passion of the child of toil, male and female, may spread her fragrant and rosy beds ; where the boy with the dark eye and thoughtful brow may muse undisturbed upon the sunset, landscape, evening cloud, silver moon, and incense-breathing morn ; where the household gods, rising in a goodly temple, may be worshipped with the pious fondness that breaks forth in the language of the song,

"Home, sweet home !"

The school-house is his, and he educates his children fully up to the standard of his neighbor's children. The sabbath is his, and its sanctuaries. The establishment in which he and his family labor, is his by the spirit of adoption ; his employers are his friends and fellow citizens, and in short, his situation yields him the crowning blessing of life, contentment. It is for reasons like these that labor is a more advantageous element in manufacturing in localities like ours than in those to which allusion has been made. Constant and willing, the work goes on in heat or cold, in storm or sunshine. Studious and ambitious, skill in each department accumulates ; sympathising with the interest of the concern, betrayal of trust rarely occurs ; comfortably independent in circumstances, it is not obliged to flee beyond recall if operations are awhile suspended.

It is the field then of manufacturing labor that is to have untiring cultivation, and in which improvement in the art is to be sought after as for hidden treasure. Seek, then, Manufacturers of Berkshire, through the arm of labor for the requisite strength to meet not only the heavier estab-

lishments of this country, but the hot and fiery competition of the workshops of the old world. Augment, double the skill of labor by making it permanent, make it permanent by making it contented, and make it contented by making it prosperous. Lose not the skill that long experience in an establishment has husbanded, by shifting it into new and untaught hands. Transmit the knowledge of the father to the son, of one generation to another. Resolve to excel at home and abroad. There is scarcely another region of earth more rich in natural resources than yours. The auspices are all favorable. Your future pathway is full of encouragement. Walk boldly but wisely therein, and pre-eminence, the world over, is within your reach.



## A P P E N D I X.

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At the Meeting of the Association on the 22d of February, a large number of Manufacturers from all parts of the County were present. The action of the informal meeting on the first of January was fully approved and ratified and the Association was permanently established. The officers chosen at the first meeting were re-elected with the exception of one or two Vice Presidents who declined, and the list stands as follows:

*President*, GEO. W. PLATNER of Lee.

*Vice Presidents*, CHARLES H. PLUNKETT, Hinsdale; LEMUEL BASSETT, Lee; JOHN C. RUSSELL, Great Barrington; HARVEY ARNOLD, North Adams; WM. A. PHELPS, Lenox; THOMAS G. CARSON, Dalton.

*Secretary*, W. F. BACON, Pittsfield.

*Committee of Arrangements*, The Committee to make Arrangements for the next anniversary are, THEODORE POMEROY, GEO. S. WILLIS, Pittsfield; HARVEY ARNOLD, North Adams; ASA RUSSELL, Great Barrington; Z. M. Crane, Dalton.

The re-union at the dinner table of the Berkshire was one of the most pleasant social gatherings ever enjoyed in the County of Berkshire, and it is believed contributed much to that better acquaintance of the members which is one of the chief objects of the Association. The Committee of Publication regret that they are unable to give the toasts, sentiments and speeches which gave so much zest to the occasion and which were so much enjoyed at the time, but they cannot do so in a manner which would preserve their spirit, and they are unwilling to give a meager report of them.

They however give below a memoir of the introduction of Woolen manufactories into the County, which was prepared by Mr. Thadeus Clapp, 3d, and which will be found an interesting paper. Similar statements with regard to the early history of other branches of manufactories among us would doubtless be well received at the meetings of the Association, and materials for them would not be wanting. Information with regard to them would probably be found in old town and family papers. One allusion to the paper manufactory was mentioned at the dinner table and is found in the "instructions" of the town of Pittsfield to Col. William Williams and Captain James Noble, its Representatives to the General Court in the year 1779. The sixth article reads as follows:

"That you use your best endeavors, that any petition which may be preferred from this town or from any individuals of it, respecting the erecting a Paper-Mill in this town be attended to and espoused by you in the General Court."

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### MR. CLAPP'S STATEMENT.

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I have collected some historical incidents, in regard to the early introduction of the Woolen Business in this town, which may be of some interest. We find as soon as a settlement was commenced, our worthy fathers selected a site for a saw-mill; in a year or so a grist-mill was proposed, and as the good old patriarchs advanced in civilization and became conscious of the tattered appearance of their habiliments, a fulling and clothier's shop was proposed.

Pittsfield was settled in 1752, incorporated in 1760, and in February, 1770, Valentine Rathbun had the presumption to start the first fulling-mill. It was none of your new fangled German inventions, but an old-fashioned, double action, crank mill, driven by a three foot, open bucket water-wheel, only warranted to run in a high freshet, or a long spell of weather. Mr. Rathbun purchased



the property now owned by J. V. Barker & Brother, and in a few weeks his fulling-mill and hand shears were in full operation. Stimulated by the extraordinary success of Valentine Rathbun, (for he charged and received from 40 to 50 cents for fulling and finishing a single yard of cloth,) Deacon Barber, in 1776, conceived the idea of establishing a rival concern in the north part of the town, and accordingly put in operation, near where the Pittsfield Woolen Company Mills are, an improved fulling-mill, with an extra crank, to administer to the wants of the ragged and seedy settlers of the neighborhood. From year to year, as the town increased, more clothier's works were established, until the members of the profession became quite formidable. The idea of the manufacturers meeting together, as they have done to-day, is no original thought, for the clothiers of 1805, had become so numerous that a writer in the Pittsfield Sun of April 15, 1805, under the signature of "Brother Clothier," published an article, from which the following is an extract:

"If a society of *Clothiers* should combine, for the laudable, purpose of investigating the natural qualities of chemical liquids and to improve in making and dressing cloth, it would, in my opinion, be a society as useful and honorable to the country as a Missionary, or any other society whatever. An attempt was made for an establishment of this kind, a number of years since, but from some unforeseen cause, it failed of success. It is ardently wished that an institution of this kind could be formed; from which, to the real patriot, benefits soon would arise that would be more than a compensation for all trouble. I do not wish to dictate or propose measures to be pursued, but will leave them to my brethren, and with them will cordially unite to carry them into effect. If, however, a disposition is wanting for this purpose, it is to be hoped that every Clothier will, individually, use his exertions to improve his art, and to convince his customers of the utility and importance of *their* exertions to improve in the manufacture."

Arthur Scholfield, the man who put in operation the first carding machine, and manufactured the first piece of broadcloth in America, came to this country in 1789 with Samuel Slater, the father of cotton manufactories. Scholfield came to Pittsfield in 1800. The laws of England did not admit the emigration of machinists, and therefore he took no tools with him, no patterns or drawings, trusting solely to the powers of his memory to enable him to construct the most complicated machinery. His memory was

remarkably tenacious, and being a good mathematician, he was enabled to enter into all the nice calculations required in such a labor. But new and important obstacles came up, and he was obliged to make a return voyage to England before he could perfect his carding machine. About the year 1801 his machine was perfected, and we have his first advertisement in the Pittsfield Sun of November 2d:

“ARTHUR SCHOLFIELD, respectfully informs the inhabitants of Pittsfield, and the neighboring towns, that he has a carding machine half a mile west of the meeting-house, where they may have their wool carded into rolls for 12 1-2 cents per pound, mixed 15 1-2 cents per pound. If they find the grease, and pick and grease it, it will be 10 cents per pound and 12 1-2 mixed. They are requested to send their wool in sheets, as they will serve to bind up the rolls when done. Also a small assortment of woolens for sale.

Pittsfield, Nov. 2d, 1801.”

The first broadcloth made in this country was by Scholfield in 1804. The cloth was a grey mixed, and when finished was shown to the different merchants, and offered for sale, but could find no purchasers in the village. A few weeks subsequently, Josiah Bissell, a leading merchant in town, made a voyage to New York for the purpose of buying goods, and brought home two pieces of Scholfield's cloths, which were purchased for the foreign article. Scholfield was sent for to test the quality, and soon exhibited to the merchant his private marks on the same cloth which he had before rejected. In 1808 Scholfield manufactured 13 yards of black broadcloth, which was presented to James Madison, from which his inaugural suit was made. Fine Merino Sheep were introduced about this time in this town, and Scholfield was able to select enough to make this single piece, and President Madison was the first President who was inaugurated in American broadcloth.

Some advertisements from the files of the Pittsfield Sun, of Scholfield's enterprise, will show what prices he obtained for his work, and show us how important his operations were regarded. I find on a day-book of his, broadcloth charged to individuals as early as 1805, and prices paid for weaving from 40 to 60 cts. per yard.

The first meeting to form a company for the purpose of manufacturing fine cloth and stockings, was held Jan. 4th, 1809, at Pittsfield. The following is among the resolutions :



“*Resolved*, That the introduction of spinning jennies, as is practiced in England, into private families, is strongly recommended, since one person can manage by hand, by the operation of a crank, 24 spindles.”

The following advertisement was published in the Sun of Feb. 8, 1801:

“AMERICANS! Encourage your own manufactories, and they will improve. Ladies, save your rags. As the subscribers have it in contemplation to erect a paper mill in Dalton, the ensuing spring; and the business being very beneficial to the community at large, they flatter themselves that they shall meet with due encouragement. And that every woman who has the good of her country, and interests of her own family at heart, will patronize them, by saving her rags, and sending them to their manufactory, or to the nearest store-keeper, for which the subscribers will give a generous price.

“HENRY WISWALL,  
ZENAS CRANE,  
JOHN WILLARD.

“Worcester, Feb. 8, 1801.”

“PITTSFIELD FACTORY, APRIL, 1805.—Good news for farmers; only 8 cents per lb. for picking, greasing, and carding white wool, and 12 1-2 for mixed.

“For Sale, Double Carding Machines, upon a new and improved plan, good and cheap. Also, a few sets of Cards, made by the Shakers, and warranted good.

“ARTHUR SCHOLFIELD.

“N. B. Marble Monuments, Nails, &c., for sale, as usual.”

“FARMERS TAKE NOTICE.—*Carding Machine*—The inhabitants of this and the neighboring towns are informed, that the subscribers have erected, about a mile west of Ezra Hall’s tavern in Lanesborough, a Carding Machine, at which Wool of one color will be picked, oiled and carded, for 8 cents, and mixed for 12 1-2 cents a pound. The work will be superintended by a man who has served a regular apprenticeship to the business; the strictest attention will be paid and every exertion used, to give satisfaction to those who bring Wool to their Machine.

“BETHUEL BARKER JUN. & Co.

“Lanesborough, May 10, 1805.”

“*Dressing Cloth*, continued in all its branches, by the subscriber in Dalton, who will soon have his works repaired in the best manner, and receive a good supply of Dye Stuff directly from New

York. In addition to his usual number of hands, he has engaged two more, to begin the first day of September, one of whom is a professed workman.

"He is thankful to his customers for the generous support they have given him for six years that he has been in this place, and solicits a continuance of their custom, by assuring them and the public, that in future he is determined to dress Cloth as quick, as well, and as cheap, as any Clothier in the Country. Almost any kind of Produce, Cloth, or Wool, received in payment.

"EZRA MAYNARD.

"Dalton, August 10, 1805."

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"PITTSFIELD FACTORY.—The subscribers having devoted the principal part of their time for three years past to the study and practice of the Wool Carding Business, under the immediate tuition of Mr. A. Scholfield, and being assured of receiving every necessary assistance from him, with confidence offer their services and solicit the patronage of their friends and the public in general, and pledge themselves that the work will be as well executed, the business transacted with as much fidelity and punctuality as heretofore. The Machinery in our Factory never was in better order for doing the best of work than it is at present; the quantity must, in the view of every superficial observer, give it the preference to any other in the country, let what will be said to the contrary. If any are lead to doubt, they are respectfully requested to call and see for themselves. And we engage that if the work is not as well done as it ever was, at this place, that we will make good all damage arising therefrom.

"ALEXANDER & ELISHA ELY.

"June 7, 1806."

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"CARDING MACHINE.—The inhabitants of this and the neighboring towns are informed, that the subscriber has erected, at his Mills, near the Furnace, in Lenox, a Carding Machine, at which Wool will be picked, oiled and carded, for 12 1-2 cents, and carded for 10 cents per lb. The strictest attention will be paid, and every exertion used, to give satisfaction to those who bring their Wool to this Machine.

"W. WALKER.

"Lenox, June 1, 1804."

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"PITTSFIELD FACTORY.—*Double Carding Machines*.—Made and Sold by A. Scholfield for \$253 each, without the Cards, or \$400 including the Cards. Picking Machines at \$30 each.

"Wool Carded on the same terms as it was the last year, viz: 8



cents per pound for white, and 12 1-2 cents for mixed. No credit given.

“Marble Monuments, Building Stone, Nails, &c., &c., made and sold as usual.

“March 24, 1806.”

“CARDING MACHINES.—The subscribers, in addition to their old Carding Machine, have lately erected, at their Mills near the Furnace in Lenox, a new and double Machine, made and let by Mr. A. Scholfield, Pittsfield, and by him warranted to be of the best kind; they now flatter themselves they shall be able to give satisfaction to all who bring their wool to their Machines. Strict attention will be paid by Mr. Perkin, who, with their present Machines, can make as good work as is made at any machine, or by any workman in the country, (Mr. Scholfield having relinquished the Carding business.) The price for Oiling, Picking and Carding Wool will be as usual at other Machines, that is, 10 cents per lb. for mixed, and eight for white.

“They have for sale Linseed Oil, and also Plaster of Paris, of the best quality.

“A blacksmith who is a good workman and an industrious man, may be accommodated with a Blacksmith Shop with a Trip Hammer, at a good stand near the Furnace, and possession given immediately.

“WALKER & WORTHINGTON.

“Lenox, May 26, 1806.”

“WOOL CARDED, PICKED AND OILED—*By Michael Van Deusen & Co.*—In Stockbridge, at Curtis's Mills; in Lee, at the Falls near the Forge; in Bethlehem, at Mr. Baird's Mills, about one mile east of Goodwin's Turnpike Gate, on the following conditions, viz: 8 cents per lb. for White and 10 cents for Mixed, cash in hand, and one cent more on each pound if charged. Those who neglect paying by the 5th day of November next, are informed that the books will then be posted, and two cents more added to each pound for Carding.

“All those who had Carding done at Lee Falls last year, are requested to call at Joseph Whiton's Store and settle their accounts immediately.

“Butter, Cheese and Grain will be taken in payment for Carding, and the market price allowed.

“April 24, 1806.”

“WOOL CARDING.—The subscribers respectfully inform the public that they continue to carry on the business of Carding Wool, at their Machine in Williamstown, where they will Pick, Oil and Card White Wool at 8 cents, and Mixed at 12 1-2 cents per pound. All

the wool that is to be picked must have the Burrs, &c., taken out.

“REUBEN JUDD & CO.

“Williamstown, May 20, 1806.”

“TO FARMERS.—The subscriber has been at no inconsiderable expense and trouble in procuring two Rams, one of the English (called Badewell's breed,) the other half Spanish and half English. This is undoubtedly the best breed of Sheep in the United States, and equal to any in the world, both for the quantity of wool they produce, and the flavor of the mutton.

“One of the Rams the subscriber now has, when only six months old, weighed 160 pounds; and it is a fact, that some of this breed butchered within the United States, have averaged 50 lbs. to the quarter when dressed. And 20 of them averaged 11 pounds of wool per head at a single shearing.

“The Rams are yearlings, and may be seen by applying to Mr. James Barker, or to the subscriber in Cheshire. Some of the stock Lambs may be seen at Mr. Ebenezer Buck's, in Lanesborough. The price will be for every ewe brought to the Rams four dollars per head, or half the Lambs the first day of September next, at the election of the owner of the Ewes.

“The subscriber has yet unsold a few of the half-blooded Ram Lambs of this season, which he offers at the moderate price of \$30 per head, or will let them on reasonable terms. He would wish to dispose of them at some considerable distance from this, as he is anxious to have the stock spread through the New England States, and has already sold several in this part of the country. Those who think the prices high, by inquiry will find, that one of the full-blooded Rams of this breed is worth more money than any Horse in Berkshire County. It is made felony, by an act of the Parliament of Great Britain, to export any of this breed from that Island.

“This early information is given to the gentlemen farmers of this and the adjacent counties, that they may make seasonable enquiry as to the value of this breed of Sheep, not doubting but every man of candor and discernment will consider it for his interest to afford liberal encouragement to an object of such primary importance and more especially at this eventful period.

“JOHN HART.

“Cheshire, September 11, 1807.”